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The Society of Royal Converts

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Chapter 1 by Margo Renati

The wind whistled against my window sill the morning of my departure. I was to meet my future wife at the docks by 3:00 PM; it was currently 5:00 AM. I had not slept more than a few minutes at a time the night before, a big no-no in Regina where I lived.

All girls and boys who were born every 12 years were sent to be married off to any person of royal blood who was willing to pay; due to our small island nation's history, we had created a sub-culture specific for those who were to be married to the ruling class. Many rules were set to ensure that we were perfect in every way possible -- to ensure that we would always be beautiful, athletic, and intelligent. Future prince and princess consorts were forbidden in partaking in romantic relationships before their marriage. Friday is the only day of the week that you are allowed to wear pink. And, not getting your much-needed beauty sleep before you meet your future husband or wife was considered a sin.

I have always believed in conformity, so I kept my head down for 16 years and never once spoke out of turn. However, I have always dreaded the thought of being forced to marry someone I did not know but I was far too meek to try to prevent something that was inevitable. All the years of my life, I've lived as the quiet unnoticed girl with the dull features -- I wasn't going to change now.

The golden bell rang loudly, announcing the start of another day for the residents of Regina. It would be my last day on the island, a place I never considered home but I loved it nonetheless. I stood up from my canopy bed and headed to my washroom to freshen up. I had a long day.

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